

Pulling PM

"PULL THE STRING, AND IT WILL FOLLOW WHEREVER YOU WISH. PUSH IT, AND IT WILL GO NOWHERE AT ALL..."
-GEN DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER



We spend a whole lot of time pushing preventive maintenance here at PS. Today, on this page, we would like to give a little emphasis to pulling it.

Who pulls the string that gets preventive maintenance accomplished?

The general answer is, anyone in a leadership position. The specific answer is the commander, the unit maintenance officer and unit sergeants.

Preventive maintenance starts in the office of the commander. The PM program under his or her command is only as good as the emphasis he or she gives it. If PM does not have a "starring role" in the commander's office, it will be no more than a "bit player" in motor pools and shops.

The weight of a good PM program falls heavily on the unit maintenance officer. If he or she spends all the time "firefighting," being reactive instead of proactive, preventive maintenance will not be done. Preventive maintenance must be an in-place plan that operates regardless of the fires. If PM is put on the back burner every time there is a fire, there will be a fire every time PM is put on the back burner.

Ultimately, a unit's PM program is only as good as the first line supervising sergeant's leadership. Only when that sergeant is on the job giving instruction, reviewing processes, encouraging those doing the maintenance and promoting the importance of PM, will the PM program be a successful one.

Eisenhower knew about leadership. He knew how to "pull the string." When it comes to preventive maintenance, if you are in a leadership position, make sure you are pulling the string so that the world's best equipment stays that way.